The Manner of Making a Proper Wudhu

Question: What do the Ulema of Deen and the Muftis have to say about the various du'aas to be recited when washing the different body parts during wudhu, such as the face, arms, feet and when gargling, making Masah, etc? Do we need to learn them if we do not know them? How do we do this? We will be very grateful if you take the trouble to furnish details.

Answer: The du'aas to be recited during wudhu have been reported in the Ahadeeth and the books of Fiqh such as *Shaami* (Vol.1 Pg.118) and *Fataawaa Aalamgeeri* (Vol.1 Pg.6). For ease, we will quote the du'aas from the Urdu book *Amaliyaat Mujarrabah*[1]. If one finds difficulty in learning them all, one should recite Durood after washing every limb, as stated in *Fataawaa Aalamgeeri* (Vol.1 Pg.6).

THE SUNNAH METHOD OF PERFORMING WUDHU

When making wudhu, a person ought to do so properly. After making Istinjaa, a person should sit on a high place facing the Qibla and begin by brushing the teeth with a Miswaak. He must then recite the du'aa:

اَللّٰهُمَّ اجْعَلْ تَسَوُّكِيْ

هٰذَا تَمْحِيْصًا لِذُنُوْبِيْ وَمَرْضَاةً لَّكَ يَارَبِّ بَيِّضْ بِهٖ وَجْهِيْ كَمَا تُبَيِّضُ بِهٖ اَسْنَانِيْ

It is reported in *Binaayah* that the following du'aa should be recited while using the Miswaak:

اَللّٰهُمَّ طَهِّرْ فَمِيْ وَنَوِّرْ قَلْبِيْ وَطَهِّرْ بَدَنِيْ

وَحَرِّمْ جَسَدِيْ عَلَى النَّارِ

Allaama Nawawi رحمه الله has mentioned in *Sharh Muhadhab* that although the following du'aa has no basis in the Ahadeeth, it is an excellent du'aa to recite and there is no harm in reciting it:

اَللّٰهُمَّ بَيِّضْ اَسْنَانِيْ وَشُدَّ بِهٖ لِسَانِيْ

وَثَبِّتْ بِهٖ لَهَاتِيْ وَبَارِكْ لِيْ فِيْهِ يَا اَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِيْنَ،

The intention for making wudhu should then be made and one should recite:

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنِّيْ اَعُوْذُبِكَ

مِنْ هَمَزٰتِ الشَّيَاطِيْنِ وَاَعُوْذُبِكَ رَبِّ اَنْ يَّحْضُرُوْنِ

[1] Vol.1 Pg.4-6.

Thereafter, wash both hands up to the wrists thrice, pass the fingers through each other and recite:

اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنِّيْ اَسْئَلُكَ الْيُمْنَ

وَالْبَرَكَةَ وَاَعُوْذُبِكَ مِنَ الشُّوْمِ وَالْهَلَكَةِ

Then gargle the mouth thrice and recite:

اَللّٰهُمَّ اَعِنِّيْ عَلٰى ذِكْرِكَ وَشُكْرِكَ وَتِلَاوَةِ كِتَابِكَ

Then put water into the nostrils thrice and use the little finger of the left hand to clean them. Recite the following du’aa at this stage:

اَللّٰهُمَّ اَرِحْنِيْ رَائِحَةَ الْجَنَّةِ وَاَنْتَ رَاضٍ عَنِّيْ

Thereafter, wash the face from the place where the hair starts to grow to beneath the chin and from one temple to the other. When doing this, recite:

اَللّٰهُمَّ بَيِّضْ وَجْهِيْ بِنُوْرِ وَجْهِكَ يَوْمَ تَبْيَضُّ وُجُوْهُ اَوْلِيَائِكَ or recite:

وَجْهِيْ بِنُوْرِ وَجْهِكَ يَوْمَ تَبْيَضُّ وُجُوْهٌ وَتَسْوَدُّ وُجُوْهٌ

If one has a thick beard, one should make Khilaal of the beard by passing wet fingers through the beard from beneath the chin towards the cheeks.

Thereafter, wash the right arm thrice including the elbow as you recite the du’aa:

اَللّٰهُمَّ اَعْطِنِيْ

كِتَابِيْ بِيَمِيْنِيْ وَحَاسِبْنِيْ حِسَابًا يَسِيْرًا

If one is wearing a ring, ensure that the ring is moved for water to reach beneath it.

Then wash the left arm including the elbow as you recite:

اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنِّيْ اَعُوْذُبِكَ اَنْ تُعْطِيَنِيْ كِتَابِيْ بِشِمَالِيْ اَوْ مِنْ وَرَاءِ ظَهْرِيْ

When this is done, keep the little finger, the ring finger and the middle finger of each hand together, with the index finger apart. Then wet the fingers and pass these three fingers over the head starting from the forehead and then stopping at the nape. Thereafter, pass the wet palms of each hand over the sides of the head above the ear, starting from the nape where they have stopped and ending at the front of the head. In this way, Masah is made of the entire head. Then recite the du’aa:

اَللّٰهُمَّ غَشِّنِيْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ وَاَنْزِلْ

عَلَيَّ مِنْ بَرَكَاتِكَ وَاَظِلَّنِيْ تَحْتَ عَرْشِكَ يَوْمَ لَا ظِلَّ اِلَّا ظِلُّكَ

Then place the index fingers into the ears and pass them through the folds of the outer ear as well. The insides of the thumbs will then be passed over the backs of the ears, so that Masah of the ears is completed. The following du'aa should then be recited:

اَللّٰهُمَّ اجْعَلْنِيْ مِنَ الَّذِيْنَ يَسْتَمِعُوْنَ الْقَوْلَ فَيَتَّبِعُوْنَ اَحْسَنَهٗ

Immediately thereafter, pass the backs of the hands over the nape as you recite:

اَللّٰهُمَّ فَكِّ رَقَبَتِيْ مِنَ النَّارِ وَاَعُوْذُبِكَ مِنَ السَّلَاسِلِ وَالْاَغْلَالِ

Then wash the feet up to the ankles and pass the little finger of the left hand between the toes, starting from the little toe of the right foot and ending with the little toe of the left foot. When washing the right foot, recite:

اَللّٰهُمَّ ثَبِّتْ قَدَمِيْ عَلَى الصِّرَاطِ يَوْمَ تَزِلُّ الْاَقْدَامُ فِي النَّارِ

When washing the left foot recite:

اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنِّيْ اَعُوْذُبِكَ اَنْ

تَزِلَّ قَدَمِيْ عَلَى الصِّرَاطِ يَوْمَ تَزِلُّ اَقْدَامُ الْمُنَافِقِيْنَ

The du'aas cited in *Shaami*, *Aalamgeeri* and *Tahtaawi* are slightly different and a person may recite whichever of them his knows.

After completing the wudhu, recite the Kalimah Shahaadah, which is:

اَشْهَدُ اَنْ لَّا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا

اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهٗ لَا شَرِيْكَ لَهٗ وَاَشْهَدُ اَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهٗ وَرَسُوْلُهٗ

A Hadith states that when a person recites the Kalimah Shahaadah after performing wudhu, all the eight doors of Jannah are flung open for him and he may enter from whichever door he pleases. Then recite the du'aa:

اَللّٰهُمَّ اجْعَلْنِيْ مِنَ التَّوَّابِيْنَ وَاجْعَلْنِيْ مِنَ الْمُتَطَهِّرِيْنَ

وَاجْعَلْنِيْ مِنْ عِبَادِكَ الصَّالِحِيْنَ الَّذِيْنَ لَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُوْنَ

A Hadith of Nasa'ee states that the person who recites this du’aa will never suffer from insanity. Thereafter, recite Surah Qadr and perform two Rakaahs *Tahiyyatul Wudhu* salaah.

Pointing the Index Finger to the Sky after Wudhu when Reciting the Kalimah Shahaadah

Question: What is the ruling concerning pointing the index finger to the sky after wudhu when reciting the Kalimah Shahaadah?

Answer: While some Ulema say that one should point the finger, others state that one must merely look at the sky. One may do either, but should never regard the act as being necessary. Tahtaawi[2] رحمه الله has stated that this is amongst the etiquette of wudhu according to Ghaznawi رحمه الله.

Shaami[3] has mentioned that after making wudhu one should look to the sky and recite:

سُبْحَانَكَ اللّٰهُمَّ
وَبِحَمْدِكَ اَشْهَدُ اَنْ لَّا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا اَنْتَ اَسْتَغْفِرُكَ وَاَتُوْبُ اِلَيْكَ وَاَشْهَدُ اَنَّ
مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُكَ وَرَسُوْلُكَ

Hisnul Haseen states that after making wudhu, a person should look to the sky and thrice recite the Kalimah Shahaadah, which is:

اَشْهَدُ اَنْ لَّا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا
اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهٗ لَا شَرِيْكَ لَهٗ وَاَشْهَدُ اَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهٗ وَرَسُوْلُهٗ

Thereafter, he should recite:

اَللّٰهُمَّ اجْعَلْنِيْ مِنَ التَّوَّابِيْنَ
وَاجْعَلْنِيْ مِنَ الْمُتَطَهِّرِيْنَ ، سُبْحَانَكَ اللّٰهُمَّ وَبِحَمْدِكَ اَشْهَدُ اَنْ لَّا اِلٰهَ
اِلَّا اَنْتَ اَسْتَغْفِرُكَ وَاَتُوْبُ اِلَيْكَ

---

[2] *Maraaqil Falaah* pg.43.
[3] Vol.1 Pg.119.

Thereafter, he should also add:

سُبْحَانَكَ اللّٰهُمَّ وَبِحَمْدِكَ اَسْتَغْفِرُكَ وَاَتُوْبُ اِلَيْكَ

Whoever will do all of this, a note will be made of his forgiveness, which will be sealed and preserved for him until the Day of Qiyaamah, when his forgiveness will be declared.

Badaai'us Sanaa'i (Vol.1 Pg.133) adds that a person should face the Qibla when he recites the Shahaadah. And Allaah knows best what is most correct.